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Birds of Prey at National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center July 12

Baker City, Oregon - - "Education Raptors" from the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in southwest Idaho will visit the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on Saturday July 12. In their educational presentation, the raptors and their handler Barbara Forderhase teach visitors about the beauty, strength, and unique traits of falcons, eagles, owls, and hawks.

The program will be offered at 12:00, 1:00 and 2:00 in the Leo Adler Theater, located inside the Interpretive Center. Forderhase, a Bureau of Land Management Ranger at the World Center for Birds of Prey south of Boise, will bring education raptors such as "Old Dueteronomy" the Great horned owl or "Little Hawk" the Swainson's hawk to the Baker City presentation. Education raptors are all birds that were injured in the wild and taken to a rehabilitation center for care. In each case the bird's injury was too severe to be released back into the wild and they became ambassadors for the wild birds of the world to children and adults in annual presentations throughout the region.

The Birds of Prey NCA was officially designated in 1993, but the 600,000 acre area has been recognized by birding enthusiasts since the 1940s for its unusually high number of nesting raptors. The site has over 800 nesting pairs that return each spring, and 24 different species can be found on the site. Birds of Prey NCA has been used by professional raptor researchers as well as amateur bird watchers for over 6 decades.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, operated by the Bureau of Land Management, is located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission for adults is \$5. Seniors are \$3.50. Children 15 and under are free. Federal passes are accepted. Visit www.blm.gov/or/oregontrail/ for more information about the Center, or call 541-523-1843 for updates on programs and events.

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